



DATE: February 6, 2025

TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

FROM: Chancellor Ronald P. Gerhard, CLPCCD
President Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College
President Jamal Cooks, Chabot College

SUBJECT: CLPCCD Communication – Federal Actions Impacting Higher Education

The early weeks of the second Trump administration have brought unprecedented disruption and uncertainty to the lives of many and to higher education. Executive orders targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, immigration policies and federal funding have created an atmosphere of fear and unease. While a memo released by the Office of Management and Budget sought to freeze **federal funding, a U.S. District Court has since issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) blocking the administration from implementing the funding pause.** It is important to note that the initial federal funding freeze did not impact Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, better known as food stamps. Additionally, the Department of Education confirmed that student loans and Pell Grants were also exempt. This means:

- **Pell Grants and direct student loans remain fully available** to students.
- **HSI, TRIO and other grant funding** supporting student success programs remains in effect.
- **Federal agencies cannot legally freeze or obstruct disbursement of funds** based on the recent executive orders.

Despite this temporary legal relief, **the administration’s broader agenda—including the dismantling of DEI programs and increased immigration enforcement—remains an ongoing concern.** The situation is evolving daily, and we remain committed to transparency and advocacy on behalf of our students and employees.

Reaffirming Our Sanctuary Status

We recognize the fear and uncertainty caused by **executive orders related to immigration enforcement.** Our district reaffirms its **commitment as a sanctuary institution** and will continue to uphold the protections outlined in **California’s sanctuary laws.** To that end:

- **CLPCCD Chancellor Gerhard’s previous statement** remains in effect, ensuring all students—regardless of status—have access to education without fear.
- **Across our district, El Centro, the Dream Center, the Cultural Community Center, the New Student Support Center and other student support services** are available to provide resources, legal guidance, and safe spaces for students impacted by these policies.
- **Mental health services** remain available for students experiencing distress related to immigration, gender identity protections, or financial aid concerns.

Additionally, **all employees should continue following previously issued guidance** regarding interactions with federal agents. **If approached by any federal agent on our campuses, employees are to immediately refer them to the college president’s office.** From there, the **college president, chancellor, and legal counsel** will assess and respond to the situation. This protocol ensures that our institutional leadership handles these matters appropriately, safeguarding both students and employees.

Executive Orders and Our Institutional Commitment

Recent federal actions indicate an aggressive push to reshape higher education policy, including:

- **Defunding of DEI programs:** The administration has signaled that DEI efforts may soon be categorized as **illegal discrimination**, potentially impacting federally funded institutions. While legal battles will determine the extent of these policies, we remain committed to supporting students from **historically underrepresented communities**.
- **Narrowing of gender recognition policies:** We reaffirm our support for **LGBTQ+ students** and will continue honoring **chosen names and gender identities** in student records, class rosters, and official communications in accordance with Board Policy 5040 and Administrative Procedure 5041.

Next Steps

Now more than ever, we must stand united in protecting the rights of our students, staff, and faculty. We remain steadfast in resisting any effort to undermine the values of equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Thank you for your dedication and resilience. We will continue to provide regular updates as we navigate these challenges together.

Stay updated on staff and student communications by visiting <https://clpccd.org/communications/>.